

This great country will show the world that we fight for what we believe, as we seek justice. And this great country will show the world the true compassion and decency of a great nation.

Thanks for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to John Krueger, principal, Oak Park High School.

## Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Increase the Public Debt Limit

*June 11, 2002*

I commend the Senate for passing an extension of the debt limit. We must ensure that we have the resources to wage the war against terror, to protect retirees,

and to meet our Government's other obligations. Today's strong bipartisan vote is important progress toward achieving this goal.

## Remarks at a Dinner for Senatorial Candidate James M. Talent in Kansas City

*June 11, 2002*

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Well, thanks for that most generous welcome. It's an honor to be here, back to the great State of Missouri. I'm here tonight for one reason: I urge the good folks of Missouri to send this good man to the United States Senate.

I want to thank all of you all for making this evening, I'm told, an historic evening. It's incredibly successful. I want to thank the good folks at the head table, who worked hard to send a clear message to others in the State of Missouri that Jim Talent's got great support all across the State. I particularly want to thank those who man the phones and stuff the envelopes, the grassroots workers that make an incredible difference on every election day.

I understand this is the height of barbecue season. *[Laughter]* I know a little something about barbecue. *[Laughter]* We kind of think Texas barbecue is pretty good. *[Laughter]* But we had a barbecue recently

on the lawn there at the White House. It was a magnificent event. We were able to invite Republicans and Democrats from the United States Congress, but one person was missing. So the next time I give a barbecue, we might just decide to have barbecue from this part of the world, as we eat barbecue with the next United States Senator, Jim Talent.

I want to thank Brenda Talent for joining her husband in this great journey to serve the people of Missouri. I know what it's like to marry somebody above myself. *[Laughter]* I regret that Laura is not here today. She is out in the western part of our country. She was in Idaho and then Utah, going to go out to California later on today. And then she and I are going to team up or meet back up in Crawford, Texas, for the weekend. I've got to get some culture here one of these days, so I'm going back to Crawford. *[Laughter]*